

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2476

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER AVOIDS AGEE ALLEGATIONS IN SPEECH TO
PNP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY SPOKE SEPTEMBER 19 AT A LARGE RALLY OF PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) WORKERS AND WELL-WISHERS AS THE RULING PARTY CONCLUDED ITS 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE. THE SPEECH HAD GENERATED CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE INTEREST SINCE THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD MAKE REFERENCE TO PHILIP AGEE ALLEGATIONS ON DESTABILIZATION AND CIA ACTIVITY HERE, DURING THE LATTER'S RECENT JAMAICAN VISIT. HOWEVER, ACCOUNTS OF MANLEY'S SPEECH SO FAR AVAILABLE INDICATE HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY OF AGEE'S ALLEGATIONS. MANLEY DID MAKE ALLUSIONS TO A "CLIQUE" WHICH HAD SEIZED CONTROL OF THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY, AND WHICH SERVES, IN ADDITION TO THOSE OF ITS OWN, "INTERESTS OF IMPERIALISM."

2. COMMENT: WE THINK THAT AGEE HAS DONE ALL THAT WAS REQUIRED AT THE MOMENT TO AID THE PNP DURING HIS RECENT VISIT,
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AND THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

ON THAT OCCASION TO TAKE ON THE LIABILITIES WHICH ANY
REFERENCE TO AGEE'S CHARGES ABOUT CIA EMPLOYEES WOULD
INVOLVE. MANLEY AVOIDANCE OF THE "DESTABILIZATION"
THEME ALSO WAS WELCOME, ALTHOUGH HE DID HINT AT ONE
OF ITS ELEMENTS -- I.E., JAMAICA'S ADVERSE TREATMENT
AT THE HANDS OF THE FOREIGN PRESS. HOWEVER, MANLEY
CANNOT (AND UNDOUBTEDLY DOES NOT INTEND TO) AVOID
THE ISSUE FOR LONG. AS AN EXAMPLE, THERE MAY BE
QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS RE AGEE'S ALLEGATIONS DURING
A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY
SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK. IN SHORT, WE ARE WAITING FOR
THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP, BUT REMAIN UNCERTAIN WHERE
AND WHEN.

GERARD

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Message Attributes

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